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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE

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TERMS.

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Correspondence from practical farmers, giving the results of their experience, is solicited. Letters should be signed with the writer's real name, in full, which will be printed or not, as the writer may wish. The PLOUGHMAN offers great advantages to advertisers. Its circulation is large and among the most active and intelligent portions of the community. Entered as second-class mail matter.

Agricultural.

Enriching the Soil.

Every practical farmer who has studied his business by the light of his own experience knows that certain crops are more exhaustive of the fertility of the soil than other crops which he may grow upon the same or similar soil. A second or third crop of the same plant will not grow there after the first crop, and many of them do not leave the soil in condition to grow good crops of other kinds, unless they are such as will generally give fair to good results, even if the land is not made very fertile.

Prominent in this list are nearly all the root crops, with the exception of those belonging to the onion family, as leek, shallots, chives and garlic, or the allium frequently grown from the bulb, as a very fragrant house plant when in bloom, but which shows its relation to the onion when the bulb or blossom is frozen. Potatoes, perhaps, might be excepted also, as, if the land is made rich enough to grow a good crop, crops of another sort, as corn and the smaller grains, or other plants of the grass family, will often succeed potatoes very well, if the land has been well worked. The vines, as squash, pumpkin, cucumbers and tomatoes, do not refuse to grow upon land where potatoes have been grown, though they need a liberal fertilizing for themselves.

But there is another class, those that are classed as the Brassica family, cabbage, cauliflower, rutabaga turnips, Brussels sprouts and kohlrabi, that not only will not succeed themselves to be very productive upon the land where they grew the previous year, or have been grown within five or six years, but if it is put in the grass crops the land seems to be exhausted, and even if there is fertility enough left to get a good catch with the seed, it usually fails to come up to reasonable expectations, or soon fails to furnish food enough for a good crop.

When the theory of furnishing each crop with just the fertilizer elements which were required to produce its growth was first put out, we began to hope that this difficulty was removed, and that by adding to the soil just what the crop of cabbages or turnips could be shown by analysis to have taken from it, we could continue to grow cabbages there for year after year, and not have the crops deteriorate in quantity or quality. A few tests satisfied us that this was true, and that rotation of crops must be continued, even under the condition of a skillfully compounded formula for the special crop.

We then adopted the theory that certain plants during growth not only absorbed the fertility from the soil that they needed, but in so doing they returned to it a certain amount of matter taken up and rejected by the plant, which was poisonous to it, to similar plants, and also to certain other plants, some of which were of widely different character. It might be more technically correct to say that this rejected material is of such a character as to convey to the plant of the second year the germs of bacterial or fungous diseases, of which the clubroot in the cabbages and turnips are instances familiar to many farmers, and the cracking of beets, black rot of tomatoes, blight of lettuce and damping off of celery plants in the hotbeds and houses are well known by the market gardeners.

It is well known that the clovers in all their varieties, those plants of the bean and pea family, certain forage plants that have been lately introduced, but have not yet been given worthy of general cultivation in New England, and certain species of weeds tend to enrich the soil where they are grown, by an absorption of nitrogen from the atmosphere, as was first thought through the leaves, which might have been partly true, but now is more attributed to certain bacteria on their roots. We believe that the list of such plants might be considerably extended by further investigation.

It may include several of the grains, especially if not allowed to ripen their seed. We have known of a field planted to corn for about fifteen years, in which the corn was sown among the corn each fall, and plowed under in the spring in time to plant corn again, that increased its production from fifty bushels of corn per acre to about forty bushels without the use of any fertilizer or manure. The corn crop did not seem to take much more fertility from the soil than was supplied by the roots that decayed there, while the rye, which many writers assert can return nothing more than it took in its growth, seemed to add something, though possibly it was but the humus or vegetable matter.

An onion field sown with the same crop every year, with the same amount of manure applied each season, will increase in productivity every year when conditions

are at all favorable, until the maggot or the blight gets in it. That is, it used to do so on the barnyard manure. We never gave the matter a fair test on commercial fertilizers. We never saw a tree of the honey locust under which the grass did not grow nearly as rank as in the best-cultivated fields, while other trees in the same hedgerow would seem to rob the soil of all that the grass wanted to feed upon.

The question then of enriching the soil is not altogether one of what manure we shall add to it, but to a certain extent of what crops we should grow upon it, how we shall grow and handle them, and what part of their non-merchantable products we may

fresh milk may be reduced by substituting a quart of skim milk for the quart of fresh milk, and increasing the change by a quart a day until only skim milk is given, and the change may be made more rapidly if to each feeding is added either one tablespoonful of flax and jelly or one pint of good cornmeal or oatmeal porridge. As the calf grows older the amount of milk may be increased until the calf begins to manifest an appetite for hay, and it should have the best early cut, choice, fine hay or clover to pick at. It will then be beating about a pound a day of hay, and soon it may be able to get on without much milk, though while it is plenty it can scarcely be put to a more

We know that these unregistered animals were brought into Rhode Island and into Maine, where they were the foundation of what are known as the Maine Jerseys, and probably into other States. We do not say that they are not as good cows as the registered Jerseys of later importations. Certainly the larger size, better rounded forms and usually greater milk production would be a recommendation for them to the dairyman even though a butter-maker. We have had them when we were confident that ten pounds of milk would yield cream enough to make one pound of butter. Crossed with a registered Jersey bull of good breeding the helpers produced

active. Even the humming birds may carry it from flower to flower. Then it runs down the twig until in the late summer and fall it finds the wood too tough and it dies out. Occasionally it gets into the fleshy bark, and becomes what he calls a hold-over blight, starting again in the spring. Although it endures zero weather perfectly, it does not work much damage in the winter in the Northern States, but during mild winter weather in the Southern States it may work as actively as in the fall. He was able by catching bees that had been on infected blossoms to obtain in the laboratory perfect cultures of the pear blight from the mouth part of the bees. By

machine that could go a mile and then stop, why we would go to the blue grass country in Kentucky; but that is not what we are after. Take the coaching business, for example. That is comparatively a new pleasure in this country, but it is growing among all classes that can afford it. Now, a mere race horse would be absolutely worthless for that business.

A coaching party thinking of making a drive of fifty miles or more, and that is something that requires endurance. They must go up hill and down, and have the stamina to stand the fatigue. Race horses couldn't do it, but when we find a good, clean-gaited horse, willing and able to go fast, and with the endurance to stand a long drive, then we have our ideal coach horse. It is just such horses as that we find in Maine, and that accounts for our being here after them.

The Maine horses are from the good old-fashioned and hardy stock. They are raised in a rugged climate and have marvelous powers of endurance as well as a goodly amount of speed. In fact, they are the best all-around coach horses in the world today. Our wealthy people all understand this and are anxious to secure them. The trouble now is we can't find them.

I purchase these horses myself and dispose of them both at private sale and by auction. There is no difficulty in selling all I can get.

I would advise the farmers and breeders of Maine to stick to the old blood by all means. The great danger you are now in here is the bringing in of Western horses and mixing up the blood. If you keep on doing this you will simply ruin your market. I can assure you that we shall not come to Maine to buy Western horses or strains of that blood.

Maine breeders have often been warned by newspaper writers against using Western mares to raise colts from, and we are glad that Mr. Rives sounded this note of warning to them. They should profit by this suggestion and let Western mares severely alone, that is, for breeding purposes. Another point in favor of Maine-bred horses that Mr. Rives failed to mention, or the reporter omitted to note, is that animals bred and raised there are more docile and tractable than those raised in the South or West. The Maine-bred colt is stabled and handled for six or seven months of each year from the time of a weanling until maturity. He becomes accustomed to restraint, and early learns to obey the commands of his caretaker. The long winters in the interior, also in the northern and western portions of the State, are conducive to clean legs and sound feet.

Horse raising may be made a profitable industry in Maine if breeders will select the right kind of stock, feed their animals liberally, give the youngsters proper care from birth to maturity, and see that their brood mares have an abundance of feed, and that of good quality, while carrying their foals.

The Journal, commenting upon Mr. Rives' remarks, makes the following suggestions:

The above interview with Mr. Rives will be found interesting to our farmers and breeders. He tells them exactly what the wealthy buyers want, and gives his reasons for it. It is not horses with no other qualification than a "record," but it is the all-around horse. In other words, it is the old-fashioned Justin Morgan blood and build. Read between the lines we should say that he considers the day of the racing machine nearly past among our wealthy classes, and that coaching is to take its place.

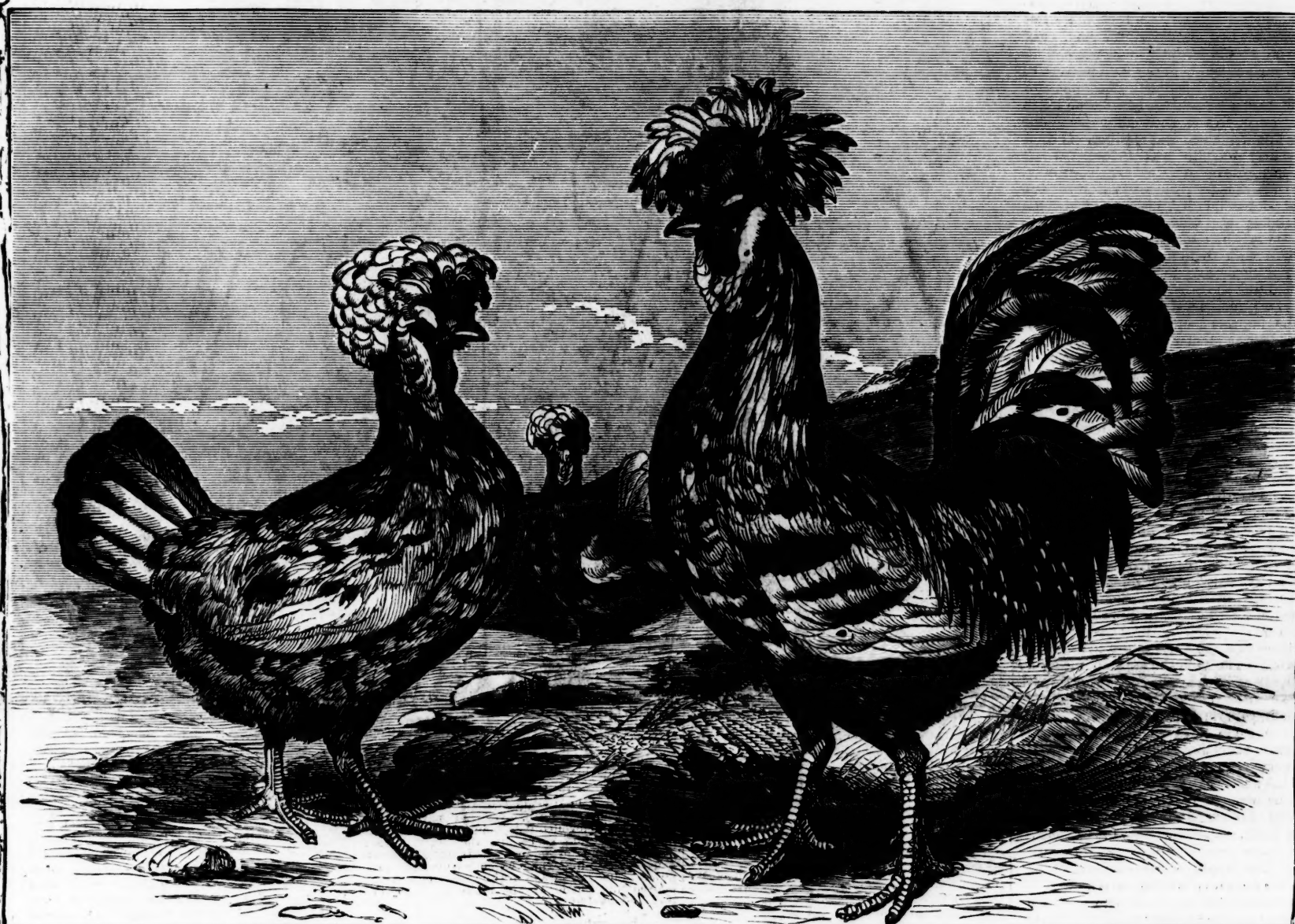
This should set our farmers to thinking. It is not only a coaching club that will want horses, but the members of these clubs nearly all have private stables that must be kept up and replenished. If coaching is to become the fashionable mode of the future, then it is to that element that we must cater. When we see a Vanderbilt among us buying horses of that class it means much. It means that the fashionable world is turning to coaching instead of "records," and we must run our sails to catch the breeze. We are certain to hear more of this matter in the future.

It would be interesting to know what prices these wealthy buyers paid for the thirty horses that they took out of Maine. They do not want fast record horses for coach purposes, and it is not probable that they pay high prices for the majority that they intend for that use. There are plenty of men who want horses to drive on the speedway, and who pay more money for one animal for this purpose, when they find one that suits them, than these gentlemen paid for the thirty that they bought in Maine. It is doubtful if they paid half as much for the thirty as C. H. Nelson got for Aubine (218) a few years ago. The man who uses good judgment in the selection of his brood mares, and also in selecting the proper stallions with which to mate them, stands a chance of occasionally getting one that will sell for a fancy price on account of speed, while the balance of those he raises will be just as good for coaching purposes and bring just as much money for that use as those that are bred solely for coaches.

Those that sell for a fancy price on account of speed eat no more hay and grain than an equal number of those that sell for coaching prices. The horses that these gentlemen select for their long coaching trips are of altogether different type from the fancy high-stepping coach horses driven in the parks and on the boulevards of large cities. They are smaller and more hardy, but do not bring on an average one-fourth as much when sold as the large, high-stepping coach. The latter are prized for show rather than speed and superior road qualities.

We have for years advised the farmers of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont who raise horses on a small scale to use their best mares of Morgan descent for brood purposes, regardless of whether they were bred according to the standard formula or not. Those who have done this and mated such mares with the best trotting-bred stallions of Hambletonian descent within their reach have been well repaid for doing so. Daniel (2,054) the fastest mare by the records ever bred in New England, is a sample of that line of breeding. If New England farmers who raise only two or three foals a year keep right on breeding that way, they will make no mistake.

The fair meeting at Medina, O., will be held Sept. 2-4.



PRIZE HOUNDS.

return to them, either as green manure, or in the droppings of the stock we can induce to eat them.

The rotation of crops has been spoken of above, and has been a favorite theme with many agricultural writers, and we believe that the idea is a correct one, though some of the rotations laid down as a course of three, four or five years, we would not think adapted either to the market gardens around Boston, or to the average farm in New England. The rotation should be adapted to the soil and the demands in the market, as also to the wants of the crop. As we have said above, the corn crop and the onion crop can be grown for many years in succession upon the same field without apparent diminution of the production, if disease or insects do not appear, and possibly some other might be added.

We think, however, a rotation of manures or fertilizers is not less desirable. We do not mean that the farmer should change from one manure or brand to another every season, but if he uses his horse manure, that if well kept is rich in nitrogen, let him try cow manure or some commercial fertilizer rich in phosphoric acid and potash the next season. After a term of years in commercial fertilizers let him try a course of green manuring to supply the humus of vegetable matter.

And not least in the question of enriching the soil must rank its water supply, its drainage, thorough pulverization before the seed is put in, and frequent cultivation to conserve the natural moisture in it while the crops are growing, and the use of cover crops in winter to prevent a waste of fertility while the land is idle.

Dairy Notes.

It is now time to begin to raise the spring calves if there are any from good cows, and sired by pure-bred bulls. They are about the only ones worth raising, for although others have sometimes proven good, to raise such is a lottery with more blanks than prizes. We would take every calf from the cow as soon as three days old, and if calf is strong and cow's udder all right would prefer that it did not suck at all. For the first week or ten days give the milk from the cow three times a day, two or three quarts each morning and evening, and one to two quarts at noon, taking care to have it as warm as taken from the cow. The self-feeding apparatus is good, but in winter the milk cools in it so quickly that it is often too cold to be quickly digested unless kept warm by the addition of warm milk or water. The amount given depends very much upon the breed and size of the calf. After the first week or ten days feeding twice a day is enough, and the

profitable use excepting for younger animals. When the season comes for turning the calves into the fields see that they have plenty of food, water and shade, the last being scarcely less important than the other two, and try to have them making a little growth every day, but if intended for dairy animals or for breeding purposes do not let them get too fat.

After they begin to eat hay or grass they will reject the milk if it is a little sour, nor is it necessary to have it always warm, but it will be better to add a little wheat bran to it. Do not try to make sour milk take the place of water entirely, as in a hot day they will relish fresh cold water as well as old cows do, and will drink it freely.

A writer in the Tribune Farmer takes the same ground that we have often taken in condemning a cross of the dairy and beef breeds to obtain a cow better in either way than the pure-bred cow. And he is no less outspoken in regard to the cross between Jersey and Holstein, one inheriting the power producing a large amount of milk, and the other of producing milk in less amounts but rich in butter fat. Even the cross of the Guernsey and Jersey he objects to, as they are so nearly alike both in good qualities and in their faults. We have seen, such a cross, and it seemed to result only in a Jersey of a little larger size and possible capacity for more food, with not a greatly increased production of milk, though that might have been found if food had been properly increased. But he has been for fourteen years testing the cross of Ayrshire and Jersey, the Jerseys being full blood of as fine breeding as he could buy, and the Ayrshires being registered stock. We note that he does not say the Jerseys were registered animals.

He found the use of Ayrshire sire with the Jersey cow or Guernsey cow gave better results than the use of Jersey bull on Ayrshire cow, increasing the milk production thirty to fifty per cent., with but little reduction in quality. The result of the cross was an animal of about one thousand pounds weight as an average, and having the muscle, agility and foraging quality of the Ayrshire, were well adapted to his side-hill lands. We called attention to the fact that he did not say the Jerseys were registered animals, because we know that there were early importations of what are now called Jerseys, but then known as Alderneys, and not registered, that had the appearance in size and other ways of being a mixture of Alderney and Guernsey, and not always free from a suspicion of a trace of Shorthorn blood. In the island of Alderney or in England, where many of those early importations were purchased, they were not in those days as strict about the purity of blood for generations as they were in Jersey.

made almost ideal cows for butter production.

But we did not expect from the bulls the same power of prepotency, or transmitting the butter-producing quality that we did from the registered bull. If we remember rightly the Rev. W. Clift, author of the "Sim Bunker Papers," which will be remembered by some of our older readers, made crosses both ways between the Ayrshire and Jersey, both being of pure-bred animals, and advertised them quite largely, and he gave preference to those from the Jersey sire on the Ayrshire cow. But the trouble came in the next and later generations. If the heifer was bred back to the Jersey her progeny soon lost all she had gained from the Ayrshire. If to the Ayrshire the qualities of the Jersey soon disappeared. If bred alternately to each the result was uncertain and was the result of using a bull of the cross breeds upon a grade cow. One did not know whether the resulting calf would be more like the Ayrshire or the Jersey, or have the faults of both and the good qualities of neither. Grades can be bred up by the use of a pure-bred sire, and by following it up they will at last be nearly pure bred, but cross breeds are not to be relied upon.

Bees and Honey.

Prof. M. B. Waite of the Department of Agriculture, talked to the National Bee Keepers' Convention about bees in connection with the monilia or brown rot fungus in peaches and plums, with the pear blight and as pollenizers in the orchards. As his remarks are too long for us to reproduce, we must be content with a condensation of the principal points of it.

He thought bees largely responsible for the spread of the brown rot, but they are not the only guilty parties. Wasps, soldier bugs and other puncturing insects are usually responsible for the openings in perfectly sound fruit, but the bees follow after and often carry the germ spores into the openings made by other insects, and into some which are weather cracked. The Old mason cracked badly from wet weather last year in Maryland. But investigation showed that the germs of this disease could be spread by the wind. He covered trees with mosquito netting, so that no insects could reach them, and the disease spread to other trees, though not as badly as where the insects were allowed to help in distributing it.

With the blight which attacks pear, apple and quince blossoms it is different. The pear blight virus is a sticky mass which is not blown about by the wind, but is readily carried by anything which touches it. Bees are no more guilty than other insects excepting that they are more numerous and more

covering infected trees with mosquito netting he kept the infection all inside. By covering sound trees that were near infected trees he kept it out, thus proving that the disease did not spread by the wind.

Tests carefully made in hand pollenization have shown that most of our pears are sterile to their own pollen, and the pollen is but little carried by the wind. The work of the bees in carrying pollen seems to be absolutely necessary, even at the risk of spreading the blight, at least in the eastern United States. In California they have had such outbreaks of pear blight that many think they can dispense with the services of the bees in this way, and say that their Bartlett pears will set all the fruit that is necessary without the visits of the insects. The speaker had not investigated the subject in California, but there are so many seedless Bartlett pears sent from there, that it is possible that they grow without pollenization. But, even if the apiaries are removed from the orchards or their vicinity, there will be wild bees and other insects to spread the infection, and, while the danger will be lessened by the less number at the work, it will not be entirely removed.

Bees and poultry make a profitable combination for those who like out-of-door work, and have not strength enough or land enough "to plow and sow, to reap and mow," as the old song had it. Women, cripples and old men have made a good living from the two. But they should not be combined too closely. The poultry have no business in the bee yard any more than farm animals, and the bees are not to be kept in the poultry yard or the barnyard. A single sting may kill a young chicken or a turkey poult, and it takes but few, if given as they usually are, about the head, to kill the older birds, while an attack from a colony whose hive has been upset by some roving horse, cow or calf may prove fatal to the larger animals, and have a serious effect on those who go to their rescue.

Preference for Maine Horses.

Messrs. Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt and R. W. Rives of New York city were lately prospecting for horses down in Maine. They bought about thirty head of horse stock there. Some have records, but the most of them were light coach horses. Mr. Vanderbilt prefers Maine-bred animals for coaches to those raised in any other section. Mr. Rives, who has been buying Maine horses for the past twelve years, made the following statement to a representative of the Lewiston Journal:

"The two great features of Maine horses are speed and endurance. In this combination they beat the world. If we simply wanted a racing

Agricultural.

Bees and Honey.

Mr. Doolittle, who is well known as authority in bee questions, to every one interested in beekeeping, names four colonies as the largest number a beginner in the business should start with. If a success can be made with that number the natural increase will enlarge the apiary about as rapidly as the keeper gains in experience, so that he can care for them. If a failure results from one or four colonies the loss is not very large, and there are then two plans to choose from: to give it up entirely, or to begin again with the experience which has been bought and paid for. But to begin with a hundred colonies, bought where they could be picked up, is to invite defeat. Not only has the beekeeper his own lack of knowledge to contend against, but the dishonesty of others, some of whom may sell him queenless colonies, or those that have been found to be notorious loafers never gathering much honey, for there are such in almost every apiary, or those which prefer to get their honey by robbing other colonies. By the way, among bees as among human beings, it usually requires only opportunity and temptation to change a looper into a robber. Worse than all, in gathering many colonies from different parties there is always the chance of getting foul brood from some of them, for beekeepers are not all honest. About the first of May is a good time to start in the business in this latitude, though if a hive is well filled with brood and has stores enough it may be safely purchased earlier. But at that time there is but little danger of spring dwindling if there is a good queen with the colony.

Or perhaps a better way for the beginner would be to secure his hives, supers, frames, section boxes and comb foundation, with such other supplies as he may expect to use, as the smoker, veil, etc., this spring, being sure to have enough of them, and make arrangements at some apiary to have them fill the hives when they have a good swarm. This will cost less than to buy the full stock in April before they swarm, and, while the increase will not be as much the store as much honey as the old colony which has cast a swarm, and usually it will winter quite as well. This will give more time to become accustomed to handling them. For a beginner the hiving of a swarm is often an undesirable task, but after he has handled the bees a year, he will think it easy to do so, especially if he has studied one or two of the many books published on this subject, and read some bee literature, or talked with some up-to-date beekeeper who does not use the box-hive, or talk about the King bee.

We believe the difference in the productive powers of different colonies in the same apiary is due to the queen, and perhaps to the stock she is descended from in almost every case, though it may be in some cases affected by the fact that some hives are not as well made, or do not stand in as favorable position as the others. These last two points the beekeeper who has the care of them should be able to determine for himself, and if he suspects either of these to be the cause he can change the position in the winter, taking precaution to partially obstruct the entrance by a shield a little way in front of it, so that the bees on their first flight will be led to choose its position before going abroad, and will return after their flight. We have read of those who moved a hive in winter, placing a nearly empty hive on the old stand, and after the bees had returned at night returning those bees to the hive in the new place. Perhaps this is not a bad plan, even if the bees that go back there are the oldest in the colony. Old age and experience may be as useful in the bee hive as elsewhere, and equal to youth and greater activity.

But even if the hives that produce but little are found to have suffered from a bad location or poor hive, we should not select them to raise either queens or drones from any more than we would accept an animal stunted in size and inferior in productive powers by starvation and hard usage for our breeding stock. If taken while young it might be brought to a condition that would make it a source of profit, but usually we think it would cost more than it came to.

We believe in breeding right, feeding right, and working every day for the attainment of our highest ideal in bees as well as in animals, and in plants as well, and if any point in these is neglected, it is a weak link in the chain that cannot be overcome by the strength of the others. Good queens mated with drones from other good colonies, in good hives, well placed in a good locality, certainly ought to produce good, productive colonies, and when one of those goods becomes poor, we cannot predict the result.

Boston Fish Market.

Fresh fish is better supply, and prices are a little easier. Market cod at 2 to 2 1/2 cents a pound, large 2 1/2 to 3 cents and steak 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 cents. Haddock from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 cents. Hake 2 1/2 cents for small, and 4 cents for large. Pollock 3 cents, flounders 2 1/2 cents, and cusk 2 cents. Striped bass not very plenty at 16 cents, but black bass 10 cents and sea bass 8 cents. Florida sheepshead 12 cents, snappers 13 cents, pompano 14 cents and Spanish mackerel 15 cents. New bluefish 12 cents, whitefish 10 cents, lake trout the same, and sea trout 7 cents. Haddock at 11 cents for white and 9 cents for gray or chicken. Shad coming freely now, buck at 25 cents each and roe 35 cents. Shad roes 25 cents a pair, and haddock roes 5 cents a pound. Yellow perch are 5 cents and white perch 7 cents, with pickled 12 cents. Fresh-caught Eastern salmon \$1 a pound, and Western 28 cents. Frozen herring 2 cents a pound and fresh alewives 1 1/2 cents each. Eels 10 cents a pound, fresh tongues 8 cents and cheeks 7 cents. Lobster are easier at 13 cents alive and 15 cents boiled. Clams steady and fair demand at 30 cents a gallon and \$2.50 to \$3 a barrel in the shell. Frogs' legs \$1 to \$1.10 a dozen. Soft-shelled crabs \$1.50 a dozen. Oysters are quiet with demand steady. Ordinary Norfolk \$1.10 to \$1.15. Selected and Stamford fresh opened \$1.25. Providence River \$1.40 to \$1.50 per gallon.

Butter Market.

The light receipts of butter and the fact that nearly everything in cheap goods have been cleaned up, has at last made this market go into line with the Western markets, although it has been a little below them, because buyers would not pay the prices asked for best goods. Now, they must do so, or go without a stock. Fresh Northern creamery brings 30 cents a pound, and some Western spruce tubs were reported sold at 31 cents. Firsts are nominally 29 to 30 cents, and seconds 27 to 28 cents, but both are hard to find, excepting with jobbers, who have been carrying them for some time. Dairy lots are now in good demand at 27 to 28 cents for

extra and 26 cents for firsts. Fresh-made renovated sells very readily at 28 cents, and some poorer at 26 to 27 cents, but with imitation creamery, ladies and low grades out of the market, it is hard to find anything at 25 cents, excepting some boxes or prints, poor to fair, at 25 to 26 cents. Extra Northern creamery sells at 29 to 30 cents, and extra dairy at 27 to 28 cents in boxes or prints, but they are not in as good demand as tubs just now. Jobbers want 2 to 3 cents above the wholesale prices unless they have a good supply of stock bought some time ago. Cheese sympathizes with butter and goes up a little on prime grades, both here and in England, as we cannot expect much of the new make before May.

The receipts of butter at Boston for the week ending April 5 were 13,466 tubs and 17,718 boxes, a total weight of 616,736 pounds, against 603,358 pounds the previous week and 996,539 pounds for corresponding week last year. Although there is a slight increase as compared with the week before, there is a falling off of about one-third from last year.

The exports of butter from Boston for the week were nothing, against 18,505 pounds for corresponding week last year. From New York the exports were only 35 packages.

The Quincy Market Cold Storage Company reports a stock of 4089 tubs, against 13,085 tubs same time last year. The Eastern Company's stock is 1861 tubs, against 3105 tubs a year ago, and with these holdings added the total stock of butter is only 4275 tubs, against 16,190 tubs same time last year. Reduction of stock last week was 3558 tubs.

Run-Down Pastures.

In handling run-down pastures I have had excellent results in reseeding early in the spring after harrowing several times. The earlier that the work can be done the better, for then the seeds get the advantages of the early wet weather and make a good growth before the midsummer. After sowing I rolled thoroughly, so that the seeds would be pressed firmly in the soil. The harrowing should be done both ways until the top surface soil is pretty well pulverized to give the seeds a good bed. I should sow just before or after a rain. I have even taken advantage of April showers to sow the seed while the rain was falling. If it is a dry spring soak the seed beforehand. It will insure quicker germination and growth. If the pasture is pretty well run down, and the soil poor in quality, I generally give it a top-dressing of some good fertilizer in which there is a good percentage of potash. This will help increase the immediate growth of the seeds. Fall seed sowing is all right, but a good many times we fail to do this and we cannot wait for next year. We need the improvement in the pasture this season. Consequently spring seedling like this will prove of great value. We can in good seasons nearly double the yield of the pasture.

Care must be taken not to turn animals on the field too early, nor to let them at any time crop the new grass too short. Such pasturing would prove very costly in the end. Both spring and fall sowing of a pasture can be carried on. A good pasture mixture for this work should include red clover, alsike clover, Kentucky blue grass, red top and timothy. A mixture of seeds will always give the best results. Less seed should be sown to the acre on spring land that has just been harrowed than on a field where the seed bed has been carefully plowed and prepared for an entire new pasture. If one wishes to make a new start in this way it is possible to divide the land up into sections, and then prepare and sow one part at a time until the whole of it is reseeded. In this way we always keep a part of the pasture in good condition, while the other parts are being steadily improved. It is a serious matter for a dairyman to plow up all his pasture in one season to improve it, but he can cut down his stock so that one-third of the land can be plowed under. New York. S. W. CHAMBERS.

The Story of the Wasp.

A wasp comes into our house through a bit of a hole in a cracked pane of glass. He goes straight to a place on the wall where he has started his house. He has brought mud, and directly there is a hum as from a spinning wheel as he spins a section on a fresh layer. The wall of the out-house is the foundation he builds upon. He starts his house from the peak of his roof and builds downward with layer after layer of finely moulded, waxy mud. There is a pair of them. As soon as one has laid on the plaster he has brought, the other is there with more. They bring and spin so busily that the wall of their house is finished late in the morning of the third day. The house now has a gallery that runs its length from peak of roof to open door at bottom.

Some wasps make short, stubby, homely houses, of coarse, dark mud. But this earthen house that rests high up on the wall of the out-house, like a slender finger, is beautiful. It is made of fine clay. Its color is light and delicate. It is glossy as the length as each cord-like layer of plaster has left its ridge. Early on the morning of the fourth day the wall of the wasp's house is dry, and the busy pair are at work. The long gallery must be stocked with food and divided into rooms. First, each wasp brings a spider. The spiders are either dead or stunned. They are carried to the upper end of the gallery. Now, one wasp must remain within the house to keep the spiders in place while the other goes for more. He brings another, and another, until there are six plump spiders packed away. The next trip is for plaster. He brings it, enters his house and you hear him spin. The spinning stops. Out pops the mother wasp long enough to let the spinner pass, then pops in again.

The spinner goes and comes and spins, goes and comes and spins, until his strand of plaster has become a double coil. This coil forms a close partition, except a small hole left in the middle. Now, through this hole, the mother

All Humors

Are impure matters which the skin, liver, kidneys and other organs can not take care of without help, there is such an accumulation of them.

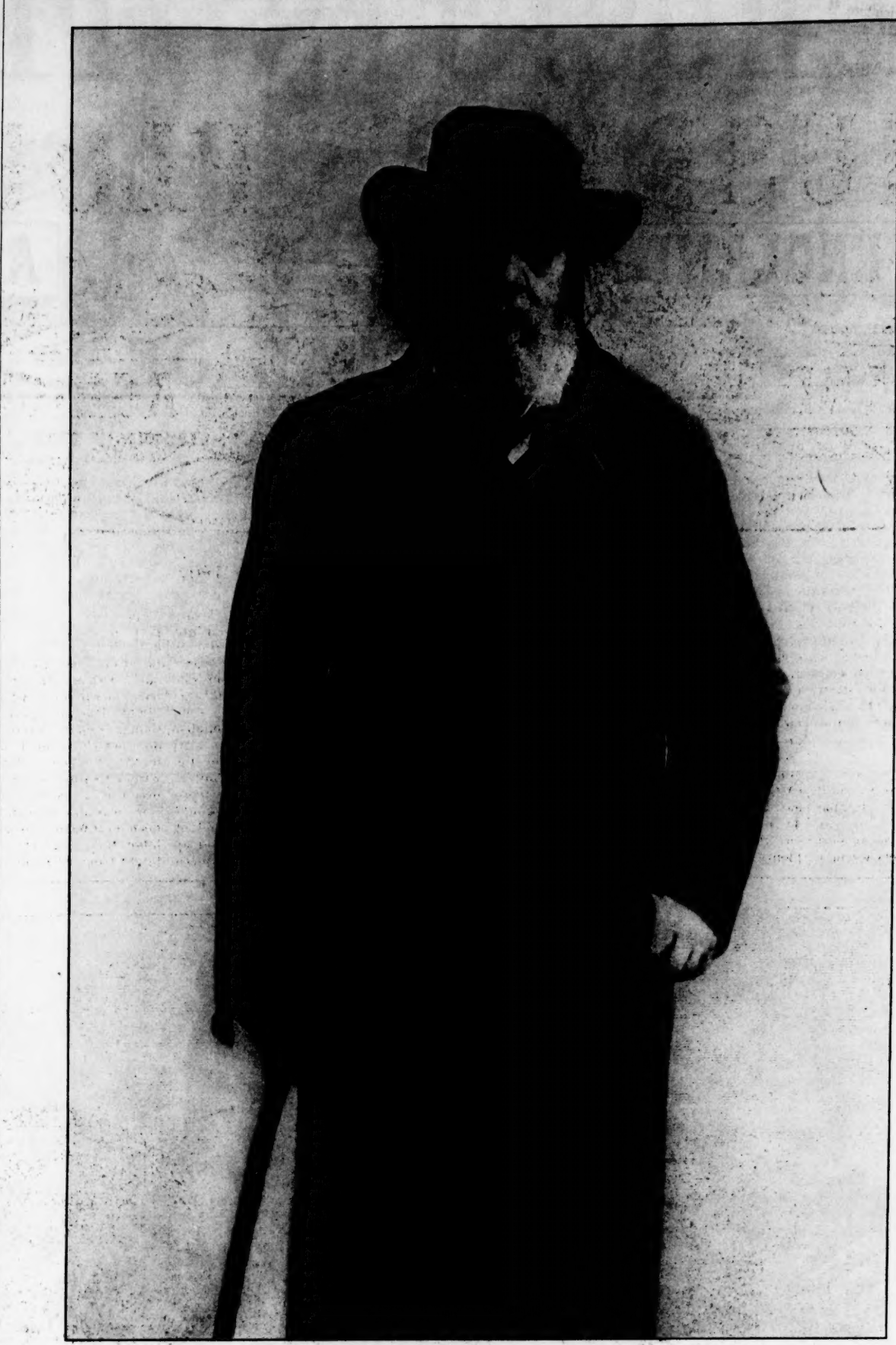
They litter the whole system. Pimples, boils, eczema and other eruptions, loss of appetite, that tired feeling, bilious turns, fits of indigestion, dull headaches and many other troubles are due to them.

Hood's Sarsaparilla and Pills

Remove all humors, overcome all their effects, strengthen, tone and invigorate the whole system.

"I had salt rheum on my hands so that I could not work. I took Hood's Sarsaparilla and it drove out the humor. I continued its use till the sores disappeared." Mrs. I. A. O. BROWN, Rumford Falls, Me.

Hood's Sarsaparilla promises to cure and keeps the promise.



REV. EDWARD EVERETT HALE, D.D.

(From his latest photograph by Davis & Sanford, New York.)

sends up into the chamber one tiny, slender, white egg. She is careful to fasten the egg to the body of a spider. The spider seals the hole in the partition with a stopple of plaster, and the first room is furnished and finished. Two more days, two more rooms, and this house is full and the door is closed. But more houses are to be added to this one. Day after day, week after week, the wasps are busy. When all is done there rests on the wall a beautiful cluster of six slender earthen houses. Each house is of three rooms. In each room six spiders have been packed—more than six if not full grown. In each room one egg has been laid from which the grub is hatched. The grub eats and grows, eats and grows till the last spider is eaten and he is big and fat. He winds himself in a soft silken web—some say winding spiral—but he is not dead. He sleeps until his form is changed and wings are grown. He breaks through the earthen wall of his room and out he comes into the light, a beautiful, shining, bronzy-black wasp—a good wasp that hurts no one so long as he is free; he cannot be crowded—Farmers' Guide.

Veterinary Department.

Questions and Answers.

J. H. Q.: My horse has had little pimples break out all on his back and rump, every other part of his body being as smooth as glass. When I drive him they are very prominent. He has had very little feed all winter, principally bran and hay. His bowels are regular, his hair shines, and he is in perfect health. Please suggest a remedy for this trouble.

Answer: The trouble that you describe is a sort of local eczema which is liable to become quite extensive. I would suggest the following lotion which will destroy the parasite: Sulphur of potassium one-half dram, water one quart. Apply a little two or three times a day. Be careful not to use his brushes, clothes, etc., on any other horse.

Reader: I own a valuable mare that has a quarter crack. How shall I cure it?

Answer: Carefully cut down through the crack from top to bottom; cleanse with soap and antiseptic. Sharpen a No. 6 horse shoe nail and carefully drive it through the crack about midway. By the aid of pliers placed at each end of nail draw the crack open, and cut out the head of nail and clinch both ends. Draw a line at top of the crack with a hot iron. Let him wear a wet woolen cloth over the foot, wet with turpentine and water, one part to three, for one week, and if a very bad case, apply a blister to the coronet. If you can't do this, apply some good foot ointment once a day and the crack at night. Between the shoe and foot, underneath the crack, cut out a half circle so as to relieve the pressure.

G. C. M.: I have a horse about ten years old which is rather thick of wind. He has a smooth coat and seems to be in good spirits. A few days since I noticed that he passed three worms, each a foot long. He has a good appetite. Last summer he broke out in blotches, but a dose of condition powders seemed to bring him round all right. Will you please prescribe for him?

Answer: The condition that you describe may arise from different causes. He may be a whistler, roarer, or asthmatic. If from the latter cause careful attention should be given to his diet, wetting his hay and grain, and give water but sparingly during the day but plenty at night. Have him clipped and give him ten drops tincture nuxvomica in a little water on his tongue three times a day.

F. F.: I have a very fast pacing colt that was kept as a stallion till he was three years old. He was kept in a damp stall and our veterinary says he had a shock of the motor nerve. He could not handle his hind parts. We had him castrated and he has gradually recovered, except that it has left him with stiffness in his shoulders and back. Some say this is rheumatism, for some days he is apparently well and then again he is stiff and sore.

Answer: I would suggest that you steam his back and shoulders with flanniblanck wet with hot vinegar and water, one part to three, for two or three days. Take his grain away and substitute bran for a few days. In the meantime send for a large-sized bottle of my Liquid Blister and apply it to back and shoulders, according to directions in circular. This preparation is particularly adapted for such cases. One application may be sufficient, but you had better

make the second one in three weeks. Also give him one-half ounce of iodine potassium dissolved in the bran mash about three times a week for a month. At the time of application of the blister you may give him equal parts of bran and oats three times a day. Do not omit to send for the blister as it is the treatment he requires.

E. P.: I have a fourteen-year-old mare that is troubled with swollen legs behind. I have had her for about four years and they have always been so since I owned her. Living seems to reduce the swelling, which extends from the hock down. She was always worked steadily, but now is used only a little, as she is heavy with foal. She is in good flesh, feeds well and seems bright and healthy. What would you recommend to reduce the swelling?

Answer: In her present condition the trouble is not wholly amenable to treatment, only palliative. I should give her one dram of iodine potassium in her food or drinking water once a day, which will act as a gentle alterative and diuretic. After she has foaled write again and we will prescribe more fully.

C. M. W.: I have an eight-year-old mare that when I go to clean her and groom her seems to be sore and lame across the kidneys, and along each side of the backbone. When rubbing her back she will bend down with her hind feet. When driven she sweats easily, and when exercised breathes hard. Kindly tell me what is the matter with her, and what to do to cure it.

Answer: From your description I should say that the mare had some serious muscular trouble, and possibly a complication of kidney disease. Her tendency to respire freely would denote a weakness about the nervous system as well. To save time and trouble I would suggest the following treatment: Take part of her grain away and substitute bran. In one week carefully give her a pint and a half of raw linseed oil. When the effect has passed away, resume the bran and oats. In the meantime sweat her loins with flannel blanket wet with vinegar and water, one part to three, for several days. Then apply the best liquid blister to be obtained to the mare's loins, top of the rump, and as far each side of the spine as the soreness extends. Make a thorough application, and when the parts have thoroughly healed if there is any sore left repeat the application. Also give in food twice a day these powders: Sulph. strychnine, one dram; powdered sugar, two ounces. Make into forty-five powders and give one night and morning. With the long rest she ought to be cured.

Subscriber: (1) What are the benefits derived from bandaging a horse's legs after work, and does it help to prevent laminitis? (2) How long should bandages be left on after work? (3) Should bandages be applied after moderate exercise the same as when the work is severe? (4) Is it necessary to walk a horse after he has had moderate exercise? (5) If a horse is heated from exertion how long before he may be given water and feed? Is it necessary that his winter coat should be rubbed dry before feeding?

Answer: (1, 2 and 3) Bandages applied loosely over a layer of cotton batting for one hour after severe work support the small blood vessels and absorbents in and underneath the skin, and prevent filling and stiffness. If allowed to remain on longer, they have the opposite effect.

Your Cows May be Made to Breed

Cows that fail to breed, especially after abortion, should be injected with Hood Farm Antiseptic Breeding Powder. It thoroughly cleanses the uterus, germs, and makes cows breed. Also effective where cows are irregular in coming in season, and where they do not clean. Does not cause straining.

William E. Parker of West Boylston, Mass., says: "One of my cows was repeatedly bred ineffectually. After treatment with Hood Farm Antiseptic Breeding Powder the first service was successful."

Hood Farm Antiseptic Breeding Powder

With full directions, is mailed for \$1.15. Can four times larger sent to any railroad express point in U. S. \$2.75. Send for circular on Failure to Breed. Mention this paper. Address, C. I. HOOD CO., Lowell, Mass.

Literature.

"Aliens," by Mary Tappan Wright, author of "A Truce and Other Tales," is a novel of North and South. The book is a contemporary life in the South during with social, and, to a slight extent, with political conditions, dramatic in movement and full of picturesque color. The title of the novel indicates the point of view, that the social conditions are still quite by themselves, and that the Northern woman finds herself in a civilization almost as strange to her as a white side her own race. The Southern with the subtle effects of social and political traditions, are portrayed with insight and power. This book is a remarkable one and has a decidedly novel flavor and color, which makes it more than a full and entertaining than many. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

"Fly-Rods and Fly-Tackle," suggested by as to their manufacture and use, by P. Wells, published by Harper & Brothers, New York, is a most interesting volume.

Another good book published by Harper & Brothers is "Nature's Calendar," by Ernest Ingersoll. This volume is intended to be a daily companion for all who love nature. It is full of useful information for the agriculturist, botanist, and all who are out-door life. There is a memorandum note on each page, to enable the reader to note his own observations.

Charles Felton Pidgin, author of "The Werhassett" and "Quincy Adams Sawyer," will soon publish through C. M. Clark Publishing Company, Boston, a new book entitled "The Climax," a purely fictitious romance of Aaron Burr, a story of "What Might Have Been," if he had not shot Hamilton, relating the adventures of Burr, an American book-keeper.

Probably no book has met with such popularity as "Andrey," by Mary Johnston, published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, who also was the author of "To Have and To Hold," "Prisoners of Hope," etc. "Andrey" is now in its 13th thousand. There are many beautiful illustrations by F. C. Yohn in color, quite distinct and clever work of its kind, affording greater imaginary interest. "Andrey" is a love tale of Colonial days. It is a volume full of decidedly interesting situations, clever in its presentation of characters, and more than original its origin of presentments which has always characterized the writings of Mary Johnston. It contains cleverness, color and spirit, a book that contains material enough for a dozen volumes. Brief, yet descriptive, though not foolishly dwelling on repetitions so common even in our best books of today. The climaxes are strong. The volume is worth reading, and one of the best of the year.

Two new books soon to be published by Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, are "Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines" and "The Brook Book." These books are sure to be very popular.

"Hester Blair," by William Henry Carson, and published by C. M. Clark Publishing Company, Boston, with illustrations by Charles H. Stephens, is the sweetest love story ever told. The frontispiece would attract one to the book at once. It suggests the contents admirably. A well-suggested tale of a simple life, yet running through the veins, eddies and undercurrents that make our lives more or less complex. Each of us knows a Hester, a John Cary or a Slack. They are of the common, every-day sort of people. The author paints them as they are—of flesh and blood. "Hester Blair" is a plain tale of love, of joy, of suffering. Mr. Carson, indeed, in his first book has the credit of presenting his tale in a most interesting and charming manner. His characters are real, true to color, and the many situations are original and amusing, and afford one much that interests and at the same time creates a desire for more. This volume is one that deserves much of good said about it, for it does bring forth a love tale of unquestionable strength, and the author has completely covered ground which seems to be quite his own, and deserving of more than little credit. Mr. Carson's other books will be watched with interest.

"The Role of the Unconquered," by Test Dalton, published by G. W. Dillingham Company, New York city, is a romance of the courtship of Henry of Navarre. It is animated, carefully arranged, dramatic, and unusually interesting. Charles Major, author of "When Knighthood Was in Flower," in a letter to the publishers, says: "The Role of the Unconquered" is certainly an interesting story of an interesting period, and well told. Henry's 'Nature' is one of the most fascinating characters in all history. I believe you will have great success with the book." One has only to open the book anywhere and glance down one of its pages in order to see the true value of this carefully prepared story. If any more charming and interesting book has appeared this season it has not come to our notice. The whole book is simple, naïve and straightforward, a powerful and interesting story of old-fashioned love. Like all the books of Test Dalton it has life, spirit and cleverness.

"Wild Life of Orchard and Field" is a volume of wonderful nature studies. It is based upon the author's "Friends With Knowing," with additions of much new and interesting material. The author, Ernest Ingersoll, of the present paper on American animal life has become very considerably known through his "Nature's Calendar." None will be inclined to doubt the value and authenticity of Ernest Ingersoll's studies of weasels, snails, sparrows, small deer, wild mice, snakes and all the other fascinating living creatures that inhabit field and orchard. Most of the style of this writer is charming, and creates for his reader the very sense of describing, and one actually gets the impression of the grass upon which one rests, as if one watches the picture of the book's stories. The pictures themselves effectively to this impression of reality. The book is an exceptional one for developing nature-lovers, published by Harper & Brothers, New York city.

"Rockhaven," a book of great interest by Charles Clark Munn, the author of the popular "Uncle Terry," has been as a sweet and convincing picture of New England life which lacks none of the "heart interest" nor the poetic appreciation of nature remarkable in this author's earlier work. A very notable country character is the Jess Hunk of the present work, while the pure action that springs upon Winn and Hunk, and interwoven as it is with the great natural scheme which furnishes much of the material of the story, is notable for its strength and delicacy. The restful country atmosphere is ably contrasted with the business aspects of city life. The scene of the panicle in the stock exchange is admirably managed. This is a simple story, to be much liked and widely read. Published by Lee & Shepard, Boston.

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

And now the Prince of Wales.

Maxim of the very modern author: When in doubt, write about an animal.

Yankee inventiveness may now take off its hat to Santos Dumont in person.

An irate cow puncher is evidently quite as handy with his gun in Charlestown as anywhere else.

Literature is truly a tempting occupation. One of the latest authors is also president of a Pennsylvania coal mining company.

In facing the question of providing material for improving its own works, the steel trust seems to be somewhat muscle bound.

Mayor Collins not only believes that it is well to have an umbrella for a rainy day, but also that it is a good thing to have a big one.

Let us pause and donate one kindly thought to the gentle brigand who first suggested a turkey dinner for Miss Stone's Thanksgiving.

The price of beef is reported to have risen in England. This is as terrifying as the rise of a certain other well-known food product in Boston.

The inhabitants of the Danish West Indies seem to be less startled at being annexed than are many of the persons who view the proceeding from the outside.

Mrs. Poulteney Bigelow comes to America with a novel which is to be published under a nom de plume. Will the publishers arrange a guessing contest?

With our own insistence upon China for the Chinese, we are hardly in a position to elevate our eyebrows if the Chinese put it China not for the foreigners.

Maxim has built a motor car for war service. Here at last is a modern substitute for the "soy-sauce chariot" of early Britain that should compel even the most active enemy to take to the hills.

When womankind has generally applied Madam Yale's directions for washing dishes gracefully, every home will have an orchestra; perhaps, indeed, this is why so many homes already have music boxes.

Few persons make the best of circumstances more successfully than the Virginian moonshiner, who put in his period of preliminary incarceration studying law, and then successfully conducted his own case.

There is no rest for the weary. Now that we have ceased our enforced familiarity with the technicalities of bowling, the papers are upon us with the technicalities of baseball and the racing bicycle.

A writer in the Era has taken up his pen to defend the proposition that woman's intuition is nothing remarkable. Is this another straw suggesting an ungallant conspiracy to prove eventually that woman is really not remarkable for anything?

Princeton has evolved a direct and practical method of discouraging the young student from injuring college property. Papa is to be held responsible, and it is safe to say that there is obviously little fun in joking with papa's pocketbook.

A contemporary remarks that many Americans will be pleased to learn that Congress is not going to make an appropriation for the special embassy to King Edward's coronation. This is a pleasure, however, that may be taken mildly, Congress not being so free from unnecessary appropriations as to make it a matter of surprise and unrestrained rejoicing.

The present activity of the Audubon Society out in Illinois suggests by contrast that the Audubon Society can now rest somewhat on its laurels in this part of the country. Whether fashion or the society is responsible, there are not many birds visible in the local millinery shops.

The overture to a new opera recently produced in Germany lasted about an hour—a lingering sweetness long drawn out, we fancy, that even musical Boston is not yet musical enough to appreciate. The composer is rather ahead of his time, even in Germany.

Feeding horses with oats from an automobile is certainly a kindly method of disarming terror, and the sooner this terror is disarmed the better for automobilists. But it is always the question of automobile? We have sometimes fancied that it might be the costume.

But why this indignation, in some quarters, because Mr. Cecil Rhodes has placed his free scholarship in an English rather than an American university? Has the delicately suggestive proverb about the teeth of a gift horse been absolutely forgotten?

Mr. Clapp is reported to have said that nothing short of an endowment will give us "a theatre worthy of the nation saved by Harrison, Grant and Dr. E. E. Hale." How about the nation saved by Washington, Lincoln and Ralph Waldo Emerson?

An interviewer in the Chicago Record-Herald has declared that Mrs. Campbell "looks as if she might be deliciously morbid." Is it possible that this is the disguised hand of the press agent stirring the curiosity of those who are not accustomed to consider the two attributes together, or to think of actresses who attempt large parts as delicious,—that is to say, highly agreeable to the sense of taste or smell?

Present plans at Washington are considering placing a woman's head on the forthcoming issue of postage stamps. Is this another straw blowing toward the day when women may be Presidents, or merely a courteous intimation of making postal matter both mail and female?

The Department of Agriculture states that during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1901, the exports of agricultural products from the United States were valued at \$952,000,000, which was the largest amount ever reported in any one year, and more than \$100,000,000 greater than the year previous. Agricultural imports decreased to \$32,000,000, or \$28,000,000 less than in the year previous. We exported about \$500,000,000 more of the agricultural products than we imported. As the exports and imports from

Hawaii and Porto Rico are not included as previously, a full comparison cannot be made, but it is safe to say that both were increased. The leading items among agricultural imports for 1901 were sugar, coffee, hides and skins, silk, vegetable fibres, fruits and nuts, tobacco, wool, tea, wines, cocoa, vegetable oils, distilled spirits, seeds, vegetables and spices, the combined value of these items amounting to about \$328,000,000. During 1901, for the first time in several years, exports of cotton exceeded in value exports of breadstuffs, which held the first and second places in agricultural export trade; meat products formed the largest item. Additional exports of leading importance, as named in the order of their value, were live animals, tobacco, vegetable oils, oleoate and oleoalk meal, fruits and nuts, dairy products and seeds. These ten items comprised in value nearly ninety-seven per cent. of the total shipments of farm produce for 1901.

Orchard and Garden.

At the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Meeting Prof. L. H. Bailey of Cornell University said that the fifteen years last past were marked by three distinct improvements in the methods of caring for orchards. The first was the introduction of spraying, which had now become so universal a practice that it was not thought necessary to advocate it at the meetings. The second was the tillage of orchards, and that was so well settled now that the farmers do not ask, "Shall we cultivate?" but "What are the best methods for clay or sandy soil?" whenever the orchard was on. Now the prime question seems to be upon the use of a cover crop for the orchard, and he believed that within five years they would be discussing the merits of special cover crops for special soils. Where the soil is not in condition to grow better crops he would use rye as a starter, and gradually work the soil up until it was rich enough to grow crimson clover, which he thought the best cover crop.

But it is quite possible to get the soil too rich with peas and clover if plowed under each spring, and thus it would be well to change occasionally to buckwheat or rye. He would plow them in with gang plow, and cover only three or four inches deep. This he would do early in the spring, that they might decay. Would not use commercial fertilizers, or but little until the trees came into bearing. After that time the orchard should not need plowing, but the disc or cut-away harrows should be sufficient for the cultivation. He urged setting two-year-old trees, and said that when two-year-old and six-year-old trees were set at the same time they were of equal size after five years. He is setting in his own orchard the Northern Spy, and top-grafting them with scions from bearing trees that produce fruit of known excellence, as he believes in the individuality of trees.

We are not sure but that many strawberries can be grown upon the same area of ground by the hill system as in matted rows, though we did not think so at one time, nor did we believe, as we do now, that the hills took no more labor than the matted row. But if we "live and learn," we must change our mind at some time. The hill, if the land is rich enough, stools out well and covers considerable space, and every berry gets a fair chance at the sunlight. We think berries from the hill system will average much larger through the season than from the matted row, upon soil equally fertile. The hill may require, or certainly will allow, of more frequent hoeing than the row, but this is in part compensated for by the greater ease with which it can be kept free from weeds, and more than that, by the fact that while the row will not often be plowed more than two years, the hills may often be kept good for five or six years, if kept free from grubs and other insects. The hills send their roots out farther if the runners are kept back, and they suffer less from the drought, and moisture is kept up also by the stirring of the soil. It is easier to pick the berries from hills than matted rows. As to the distance apart for the hills, much must depend upon the richness of the soil, and something may be left to be decided by the owner as to the land he can devote to them. The farmer who owns a quarter section of 160 acres need not crowd his plants to save a few rods of land, and the man in a village tenement on a lot of five thousand square feet needs to economize space if he would have enough for the family table each season, and a few to spare in the very favorable seasons, as he should have.

The Horticultural Club, which meets at the School of Horticulture at Wolfboro, Canada, passed a set of resolutions of which the following were the most important:

"Resolved, That we recommend that the Fruit Marks act be amended so as to classify apples into four grades, as follows:

"1st. 'Extra,' consisting of extra large, well-grown specimens of one variety, sound, of nearly uniform size and normal shape, and containing not less than ninety per cent. free from defects and properly packed.

"2d. 'No. 1,' consisting of large, well-grown fruit of one variety, sound, of nearly uniform size and normal shape, and containing not less than ninety per cent. free from defects and properly packed.

"3d. 'No. 2,' consisting of smaller specimens of one variety, sound, of nearly uniform size and normal shape, and containing not less than ninety per cent. free from defects, and properly packed.

"4th. Either 'drops,' 'culls,' or 'No. 3,' consisting of culls, windfalls, misshapen, inferior or defective fruit.

"And whereas, there is nowhere in the act any protection given to the grade marks of the grower,

"Therefore, Resolved, that Section 10 be amended so as to provide the same penalty for altering or effacing the packer's grade marks, by any unauthorized person, as for tampering with the inspector's marks."

This last clause was suggested by one who said that the marks of the poorer grades on barrels shipped by him had been removed, and a mark of No. 1 substituted, thus injuring the reputation of his brand. It was argued that the No. 2 brand often sold about as well as No. 1 in England, as some of the dealers liked to have a larger number of barrels when of uniform size. The X system of marking was condemned, because many did not know whether X or XXX was the higher grade.

As some of these suggestions are likely to become law, perhaps before shipments begin for the next season, the United States should adopt similar regulations, and they should be strictly enforced. State apples are generally as good as Canadian, and as honestly packed, we hope, but if the buyers feel that they have more protection as to quality and condition in the Canadian fruit, they may be forced to take a second place in European markets.

William H. Barnes, secretary of horticulture of Kansas, said at the meeting of the Mississippi Valley Apple Growers Association that the farmer without any orchard should not be allowed to have any boys, and

if he has, there is good reason for the boy leaving the farm. Any land that will grow good farm crops will grow apple trees, but there will be different degrees of success on different soils, which is more due to the soil than to the surface soil. The soil should be deep and certainly porous. Better a poor gravel than a rocky, hard pan or an impervious clay. Slope makes but little difference, excepting that the farther south, the more valuable a northern slope. With three thousand varieties to choose from, the commercial orchard should have but three or at the most five varieties. A man who is known as one from whom a carload or train load of one kind, and the best of that kind, is sought after by buyers, and has a market standing which is better than having many kinds, none in great quantity and none particularly good. The best trees at \$1 each are cheaper than scrub trees at five cents each, for the scrub tree is like a scrub colt or a stunted calf, no treatment can bring it up to the twentieth century demand.

Plant thirty-two feet apart each way, which is near enough for symmetry, health and permanency. Plant in straight rows, and set each tree as if it were the only one to be set. Pack, tramp and stamp the earth around the roots well. Corn may be grown in the young orchards, lessening the rows as the trees spread, and leaving the stalks to break the winds in winter. When the trees crowd out the corn, seed to clover, cut it twice a year and let it lie on the ground. A small grain of grass or an orchard, even hay or straw, is removed, is injurious. As the trees become larger, the soil under the moisture the crop has not taken, and the feeding roots of the trees, having been tempted to the surface by the shade of the growing crop, are killed when that is taken off.

Sugar Beet Culture a Failure.

The free sugar question seems to be very much in evidence at the present time, and it is a question of much importance to every household in this broad land.

With the American people sugar is no longer a luxury, but a necessity, and it seems to us that there is no article consumed in the American home "that a protective tariff bears down on all the people as heavily" as sugar.

As we read in the public press, strong influence is brought to bear upon Congress to prevent the admitting of free sugar from Cuba. They say, "We producers must be protected, or our beet sugar industry will be ruined." Thought comes to us, who are "we producers?" The farmers that raise the beets, or the manufacturers that make the sugar and who are making profit out of the beet sugar industry? We are not able to speak for every farmer, or every locality, but we have means of knowing that some farmers and some localities, both in New York and Nebraska, have not found it profitable to raise sugar beets for the factories. We have not seen it recorded where any body of farmers that wanted to raise the sugar beets, have been before Congress to urge the continuation of the tariff.

We would not lay one thing in the way of any legitimate industry that will add to the income of the American farmer, for their row is a hard one to hoe at the best. We don't hear of many that take up the business of farming, with the expectation of becoming millionaires, nor do we hear of them flocking to Congress asking for subsidies to increase their income.

Being a farmer myself, I with others felt a cool deal of enthusiasm when we first began to read that the "American farmer" could raise beets that would make profitable returns in sugar, for we thought it would open up a new industry, by which the farm could be made to pay a larger profit, and when our Government proposed to absorb the Hawaiian Islands, we felt they were doing that which would kill this new industry at home, for which we had a right to demand protection.

But when our factory began to get in running order, and we were called on to make contracts to help supply them with beets, and found we could only expect to receive but four or five dollars per ton for them when topped, trimmed and delivered at the railroad, we said, "No, thank you."

In the first place, we can't afford to raise the beets for that price, and in the second place, if we have them, they are worth more than you offer to feed our stock at home, and it would be a poor business plan to enter into a contract that we knew meant to us a certain loss instead of gain.

They told us we must raise them at a less cost by employing cheap labor, such as children and old men that would work cheap, but as we did not have the children of our own, our neighbors did not have any we could hire, the old men had all disappeared, and the Government would not allow us to import Chinamen, we declined to make a contract.

Many of our neighbors made contracts to grow sugar, a very few the second, and some the third year, but all finally gave up in disgust, as they found it more profitable to put their land to almost any other crop, and the factory men had to find new territory and new victims every year, in order to get their supply of beets, and from what we know, if there is any one making money out of the sugar-beet industry, it must be the "large magnates," who manufacture the sugar, and not the farmers. We have to conclude that the manufacturers are the "we producers" that are calling so loudly for protection.

A reduced price on sugar, means an actual gain to nearly every family in the land, while the raising of sugar beets for the sugar factory, to the most of the farmers that have tried it, has been an actual loss.

We have protected our infant industries until some have grown to a size that calls for a number fourteen shoe. Will they ever be able to protect themselves?

Free Cuban sugar means a greater degree of prosperity to the Cuban farmer, by a better price for his product, and to the American farmer, in a less cost for his necessary supplies.

Now, if we act upon the Christian principle of the greatest good for the greatest number, how can we tax the whole people for the benefit of a few manufacturers who have already become over wealthy?

We American farmers can make a larger profit by buying cheaper sugar and raising some crop for the market other than sugar beets.

American Merinos.

Not every grower of wool and mutton has sacrificed their good American Merino flocks by consigning them to the butchers during the period of depression a few years ago, and today we find them reaping the benefit of their wisdom. We are coming back more and more to recognizing the standard virtues of this breed, and many growers are returning to the American Merino to improve their flocks which have a goodly mixture of many breeds in their blood. The English mutton breeds

have been imported to such an extent that many got out of the way of raising the Merino, and now are beginning to wonder why they neglected one of the best breeds right at home. There is no better way in the world to improve a flock of sheep than to raise good, high-class Merino rams for either the range or farm. Where the Merino blood predominates there we have the best sheep for this country. On the ranches they hold their own so well that other breeds are gradually being forced to one side for them. The flocks of American Merinos will herd together and prove more tractable on large ranches and farms than any other breed, and this is a quality which cannot be overlooked.

There has been some change in the Merino type in this country by the admixture of mutton breeds, and it is rarely that we find pure-bred Merinos. A good many of these large mutton breeds have spoiled the wool, and it is necessary to return to the pure-bred Merinos to fix it up again. A good many of the large size mutton sheep appear to have an extra large yield of wool on their backs, and breeders are sometimes carried away with the sight, but when measured up alongside of the Merino the difference is invariably in the latter's favor. The fact is, the best average fleece comes from the Merinos, and the purer these sheep are the more satisfactory the crop of wool. When a man breeds for size in sheep, he does it at the sacrifice of the wool. There is no getting around that, and every practical breeder knows it. 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Our Homes.

The Decline (?) of Superstition.
We hear sometimes, in the conversation of the day, the statement that "superstition is a thing of the past," that the average person meets it controlled by motives of policy and ambition, of utter selfishness even, when some advantage is to be obtained for himself. All of which is a mere fallacy, as may be proven by the thousands of men and women who live their lives unobtrusively, yet regardless of the rights and privileges of others, and are ever ready to assist in forwarding any movement which is for the general benefit of the community.

Another misstatement frequently made is that there is everywhere to be noted a decline of superstition, which really means that there is less faith in that which is unseen, and therefore to some practical minds unproven, than was formerly the case. Yet it would seem to the close observer that superstition has not declined proportionately with the advance in knowledge and general education.

Many still refuse to begin any undertaking on a Friday, ignoring the fact that many of the most important historical events have reached a successful culmination upon that day. They refuse to be one of thirteen at table, believing that one of the number will die within the year. Yet often they are seated with larger or smaller numbers, some one or more of which are called to the life beyond within a year, without causing comment.

It would be interesting to know from what source came the familiar superstitions. Why it came to be believed that passing under a ladder would cause disappointment, or the breaking of a mirror would bring about a train of evils which would continue through a series of years. Also why the direful events occurring upon Friday, or upon the thirteenth of the month, should be especially noted, while those which transpire upon all the other days should be ignored.

Many persons of more than average intelligence, who would laugh at the wild fancies of the ignorant Southern negro, or look with pity upon the savage who thinks to avert evil by placing before his door grotesque figures of wood, will yet place implicit confidence in the "warnings" conveyed by the most trivial happenings. Does some small animal cross his path, running from right to left? It means "bad luck." Does he neglect to pick up a pin which he sees upon the sidewalk? It means that his undertakings for the day will fail, and he therefore proceeds to ruin his immaculate gloves rather than to tempt Fate to do its worst.

There is still, in this twentieth century of which we are so proud, much superstition to be combated. It is not always the unlettered person in whose pocket may be found the rabbit's foot. Even in our colleges implicit faith is placed in some "masoc" which will bring success in athletics, and the person who is master of half a dozen languages will hesitate to start upon a journey upon his birthday. Evidently we have not yet reached the limit of human progress. Much time will be necessary to eradicate all traces of past eras of blind superstition, and success will be reached only when the same amount of reason is brought to bear upon the subject as has been the means of securing the great results in the advancement of mankind which are characteristic of the age.

ELIZABETH ROBBINS BERRY.

The Workbox.

SILK EMBROIDERY.
Unless you have an artistic eye you cannot produce desirable imitations of nature with paints, but you can with embroidery, because you can have your silks selected for you, and the manufacturer has given you such subtle tones and colors that you can simulate the most marvelous shadings of nature with lovely soft silks; for instance, such as the Nonotuck Silk Company make, named Corticelli. In their book called "Home Needlework" the most explicit directions are given, so that an amateur may work from them without taking any lessons.

The little turnover collar still flourishes, and the variety of designs are endless. Persian floss is used to work them with, as it fills in so rapidly. When fine linen lawn or white silk is used as a foundation for these collars, Corticelli floss is best to work with.

Something new is the embroidered shirt waist. The linen may be bought already stamped with any desirable flower and its leaves. The embroidery is done in Persian floss. The flowers are worked in satin stitch, while the stems and scrolls are outlined.

For sofa pillows the latest is the "comfort pillow." They are made smaller than the ordinary sofa cushions, usually about eighteen inches square, or oblong 13x22 inches, and are designed to fill up uncomfortable spaces in chairs or couches. In short, to tuck behind one's back or head in the place best calculated to insure comfort. The pillow of this description was seen made of two colors in triangular shape, one light blue, the other a deep violet, joined to form a square. The seam was covered by an application of tiger lilies, the stalks extending across the violet portion. The lilies might be outlined with Persian floss.

Embroidered centrepieces with Battenburg lace borders, round and square, are effective. Use Corticelli floss for embroidering the flowers.

For ten cents the Florence Publishing Company, Florence, Mass., will send a copy of "Home Needlework."

EVA M. NILES.

Intense Light and the Eye.

Several cases of temporary or permanent injury to the eye by intense light have recently been cited by Science. The most common cause of this damage is a powerful electric light. The following story, which has been called out by the other narratives just mentioned, illustrates the caution which should be exercised when using an arc light for any purpose.

The contributor says that to oblige a friend he consented to manage a magic lantern one evening for a couple of hours. The lantern was operated by electricity, and the lamp was of the kind in which the carbons must be fed by hand. This calls for much closer attention than otherwise.

"The arc had to be kept rather short," says the correspondent, "and it was necessary to look in at the arc very often. To guard my eyes from the glare, I had three thicknesses of blue glass in front of the arc. Yet I noticed that my eyes were being injured. At the close of the lecture there was a distinct dimness in the centre of my field of vision. This has often happened after looking at a bright light, and I thought nothing of it. Next morning, however, my neighbor at breakfast wore a bright yellow rose, and I noticed a distinct spot of pink on it, yet on examining it closely there was no pink, or at least only a trace of pink in the

centre of vision. At a distance of six feet the whole rose was pink.

"On the street that morning, an orange peel on the walk at a distance of twelve feet was bright red; on a nearer view only a central spot was red. And every yellow house had a pink spot, and every orange surface a red one from that time on. Then I saw that in reading there was a gray area on the page in the centre of vision.

"It was plain that focusing so long on the arc through the blue glass had paralyzed or killed the cones in the fovea centralis and its immediate vicinity—that is, such cones as normally respond to the short waves at the blue end of the spectrum. So my eyes in that area of the retina responded only to the longer or red waves from the rose or the orange, and in ordinary vision I was deprived of just that much illumination.

"This condition persisted in a very striking way all summer, but gradually disappeared in the autumn, and now, at the end of ten months, I can discover no trace of the dimness in the centre of vision, nor can I see any trace of pink in a yellow surface. So whatever the disability was, it has been overcome. If the cones were destroyed, they have been replaced; and if only paralyzed, they have resumed their normal function."

Weights and Measures.

One teaspoonful equals one dram.

One dessertspoonful equals two spoonfuls or two drams.

One tablespoonful equals two dessertspoonfuls or four spoonfuls.

Two tablespoonfuls equal eight teaspoonfuls or one ounce.

One common size wineglassful equals two ounces or one-half pint.

A teaspoon is estimated to hold four fluid ounces or one cill.

Ten ordinary-sized eggs weigh one pound.

Soft butter of the size of an egg weighs one ounce.

One quart of sifted flour, well heaped, weighs one pound.

One pint of best brown sugar weighs thirteen ounces.

Two teaspoonfuls, level, of granulated sugar weigh one pound.

Two teaspoonfuls of soft butter, well packed, weigh one pound.

One and a third pints of powdered sugar weigh one pound.

Two tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar or flour weigh one ounce.

One tablespoonful, well rounded, of soft butter weighs one ounce.

One pint, heaped, of granulated sugar weighs fourteen ounces.

Two and a half teaspoonfuls, level, of the best brown sugar weigh one pound.

Two and three-fourths teaspoonfuls, level, of the best brown sugar weigh one pound.

Two and three-fourths teaspoonfuls, level, of powdered sugar weigh one ounce.

Miss Parlos says one generous pint of liquid, or one pint of finely chopped meat, packed solidly, weighs one pound.

Liquid Measure—Four ounces equal one gill, four gills equal one pint, two pints equal one quart, four quarts equal one gallon.

Maple Sugar in Cooking.

When the nights are keen and frosty and the days are bright and clear, any time from the middle of February to the last of March, the maple sap begins to flow. Old sugar makers say that "the run" starts when the wind is westerly and usually in the early part of March. If the season is a success the market will soon be filled with a characteristic American dainty.

There are a number of ways in which maple sugar can be used in cookery. Maple ice cream is one of the most delightful of creams. To make it beat well the yolks of three eggs and gradually add two cupsful of milk. Melt one and a half cupsful of new maple sugar, the purest to be had, and stir it over the fire until hot, without letting it boil. When it is at the point gradually stir the yolks and milk into the steaming with the melted sugar, and beat constantly until the whole is a smooth mixture. Take off the fire, add a pint of cream and freeze.

Maple-sugar fudge is popular among college girls. It was first made by the French-Canadians. Boil two cupsful of maple sugar and one cupful of rich milk or cream together, until the mixture forms a soft ball when a little of it has been dropped in cold water, and then roll between the fingers. At this stage add a spoonful of butter if the fudge has been made with milk instead of cream, and if no nuts are to be added. Take it off the fire and beat well until it begins to grow thick. Then turn the candy over coarsely chopped butternuts or other nuts, if they are wanted, in a butter pan, and set it in a cold place to harden. When firm but still a little soft, cut into squares with a sharp knife.

Maple sugar is delicious as a frosting and a cake filling. This filling can be made of whipped cream slightly stiffened with gelatin and sweetened well with crushed or powdered maple sugar.

Maple sugar is also delicious in a sauce for old-fashioned Indian pudding or any simple puddings. Shave off maple sugar, enough to suit the taste, and add it to a cupful of hot cream. Be sure the maple sugar for all desserts or sauces is new and of the purest quality. Nothing curdles milk or cream so quickly as maple sugar that is not the freshest and the best.

When the biscuits for the spring tea-table are rolled out, pound a small block of maple sugar into bits, without crushing it, and roll them into the biscuit dough. Cut out the biscuit with a sharp biscuit cutter, leaving one or two pieces of maple sugar in each biscuit. Bake them in a very brisk oven and serve hot with tea or chocolate. These biscuits, when properly made, are light and flaky and have streaks of melted maple sugar through them. They are excellent and make a agreeable change at this season.—N. Y. Tribune.

The Tongue and Its Care.

The tongue, besides being the natural organ of taste, has other duties to perform. It participates in the articulation of speech, and plays an important part in the chewing of food, in the act of swallowing and in the cleaning of the teeth.

The upper surface, or back, with its sides and tip are free, whilst its base is attached by muscles to the lower jaw and hyoid bone. Here also enter its blood vessels and nerves. Folds of mucous membrane loosely connect it with the epiglottis and soft palate, as well as with the bones of the lower jaw. From beneath its rounded border the mucous covering becomes continuous with the surface of the gums. The front two-thirds of the tongue occupies the floor of the mouth, lying between the halves of the lower jaw, with its rounded back overarched by the roof of the palate, and its sides and tip in contact with the gums. A slight lengthwise groove, the middle raphe, divides the back along its front two-thirds, ending nearly near a small depression. The rear third of the back,

situated in the front wall of the pharynx, forms a rounded surface overhanging the epiglottis.

The mucous membrane on the back of the tongue is thicker than in front, whilst that of the under surface is thin and smooth. It consists of a layer of connective tissue, true skin or mucosa, supporting numerous small papillae or papille, and covered, as well as the simple touch papillae, with a layer of cells, like that of the scarf skin. Of the special papillae, the filiform are the most numerous of all, as well as the smallest. They are minute, conical, tapering or cylindrical eminences, which cover the front, two-thirds of the back, sides and tip with faintly ridged lines. The fungiform are less in number, and scattered irregularly over the back, which one may observe with a mirror among the others by their large size, rounded eminences, and deep red color. In children they are slightly developed, and in old age they are often wasted.

Toward the root of the tongue we find the largest papillae, the circumvallate, seven to twelve in number, arranged in the form of a V. Each one presents a narrow attached base, a broad free end, and is seated in a circular cup, which is surrounded by a second. They, like the fungiform and filiform, are studied with minute conical processes of the mucous membrane which form second papillae. This membrane of the tongue is provided also with mucous and serous glands. The mucous glands are found all over its surface, whilst the serous glands occur only at the rear of the upper surface. The latter secrete a thin, watery fluid, and probably assist in distribution of the material to be tasted over the taste area.

In the scarf skin of the circumvallate papillae and in some of the fungiform, certain peculiar objects called taste cones or buds have been found. The cones occur also in front of the anterior pillars of the fauces, the front surface of the soft palate and on the rear surface of the epiglottis. They are flask-like in form, their broad base resting on the true skin, and their neck opening by a canal between the cells of the scarf skin. The inner spindle-shaped taste cells of the cones have a large round nucleus about the middle of the cell. Both ends are thread-like; the outer passes to the pore of the taste bud, where it ends in the taste hairs, which come in contact with the object tasted; the inner is a sensitive of the taste of the object. The taste sensation depends on the degree of saturation of the solution tasted, the magnitude of the area excited, and the motion, diffusion and pressure of the object tasted within the mouth.

The fur or coat, formed chiefly by the unusually large filiform papillae, can be cleansed by eating solid food, especially dry bread or toast. The tongue, however, is usually due to derangements of the digestive organs. Micro-organisms and fragments of food are found. The increase in the thickness of the fur is often related to the neglect of keeping the mouth clean by brushing the teeth. Slight burns of the tongue are of frequent occurrence, from taking food too hot into the mouth. The burnt spot is painful and very tender for a while, and is redder and smoother than the rest of the surface of the tongue, or, perhaps, it is actually raw. The material is usually due to derangements of the digestive organs. Micro-organisms and fragments of food are found. The increase in the thickness of the fur is often related to the neglect of keeping the mouth clean by brushing the teeth. Slight burns of the tongue are of frequent occurrence, from taking food too hot into the mouth. 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It is worthy of note that the seventh heat of this stubbornly contested event was the fastest of the race. On Nov. 1, following, Baron Wilkes, Bermuda and Hinder Wilkes started in a \$3000 sweepstakes race at Lexington, Ky., and Baron Wilkes won it in straight heats. Time, 2:20 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2:18 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2:18. He was one of the kind that trained on and kept improving in speed as the race progressed. That kind of horse is always popular with

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O. M. WATERMAN, Secretary, Morrisville, Va.